

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 071850Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8595

INFO SECDEF WASH DC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMDT COGARD WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1416

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MARR, BW, US

SUBJ: NLO VISIT TO TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

1. ON 25-27 AUGUST 1976 NLO MADE ROUTINE VISIT TO U. S. MILITARY AND COGARD FACILITIES ON GRAND TURK ISLAND AND SOUTH CAICOS ISLAND.

2. AT AN INFORMAL DINNER AT WHICH GOVERNOR WATSON WAS PRESENT, THE GOVERNOR COMMENTED TO THE NLO ON THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS TO BE HELD 25 SEPTEMBER. GOVERNOR WATSON VIEWED CURRENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY AS MODERATELY ACTIVE AND THE POLITICAL CLIMATE AS HEALTHY. THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENT LARGELY A DIVISION OF AGE GROUPS WITH P.N.O. PARTY COMPRISED OF THE OLDER PEOPLE AND THE P.D.M. PARTY REPRESENTING THE YOUNGER PEOPLE. JAMES MCCARTNEY, FORMER LEADER OF THE JUNKANOOS, WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST YEAR'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNREST, IS THE LEADER OF THE P.D.M., WHILE NORMAN SAUNDERS AND N.J.S. FRANCIS ARE THE LEADERS OF THE P.N.O. AND THE ESTABLISHED ORDER. GOVERNOR WATSON FELT THE VICTORY WOULD GO TO THE P.N.O. WITH THE P.D.M. GAINING SOME SEATS ON THE NEW STATE COUNCIL.

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EM THE ONLY OUTWARD EVIDENCE OF ANY POLITICAL ACITIVITY
WAS QUOTE VOTE P.D.M. UNQUOTE SIGNS PAINTED ALL OVER
GRAND TURK, AND THE WHOLE POLITICAL PROCESS SEEMED TO BE
TAKING A BACK SEAT TO THE ANNUAL CARNIVAL AND ITS PREPARATIONS.

4. THE SOUTH CAICOS POPULATION APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE
INTEREST IN THE OVERALL ELECTIONS OR GRAND TURK ACTIVITIES,
EXCEPT WHERE THEY DIRECTLY CONCERNED SOUTH CAICOS.

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INTEREST IN THE OVERALL ELECTIONS OR GRAND TURK ACTIVITIES,
EXCEPT WHERE THEY DIRECTLY CONCERNED SOUTH CAICOS.

5. ALL BASE ACTIVITIES APPEARED NORMAL AND UNINVOLVED
WITH THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. PRESENCE OF THE U. S. BASES
IS, FOR THE PRESENT, NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE.
TAYLOR

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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